

Dear Chairman Powell and Commissioners,

As a citizen who wants to be informed about issues that affect my life, I am beyond disappointed by the lack of informative TV, radio & newspaper programming. I remember the Nixon years, when administration & press were warring daily; a Ukrainian friend told me it seemed like a dream to her; in her country the press had always been controlled by the government.

Her dream is over. Our press now is basically an organ of the Committee to Reappoint the President. The only remaining functioning democracy in North America now is Canada. I remember watching Diane Sawyer, who I had thought of as a newperson, interviewing Howard Dean & his wife, asking him in 28 different ways, "Have you stopped beating your wife yet?" Then there was the 24-7 wall-to-wall "Dean Scream" on radio & TV; nowhere was it mentioned, by anyone, ever, that the mike had a foam sound baffle over it, effectively eliminating background noise: the room was filled with people screaming; Dean couldn't hear himself. Now he sounded like a man alone in an empty room, insane. In case the point was missed, the "news commentary" always followed: "He's insane, obviously. Wild man. Would you want this man in your home?" His candidacy was killed. The Democratic wing of the Democratic party is no longer an option. Gore Vidal is right: there is 1 political party again in this country, the Property Party, with 2 conservitive wings: Republican & Democrat.

You & I, your children & mine, bear a burden in our body fat of 70 industrial & commercial chemical biocides, the interaction effects of which are unresearched. The administration responds by gagging the EPA, which calculated that 160,000 Americans, annually, sustain irreversable brain damage in utero from exposure to elemental mercury from electrical power generating plants, which pours untreated mercury into air & water. The administration's response: remove caps on mercury emissions. Now we don't know how many are brain damaged annually. What you don't know, you don't know. We don't monitor it. If CIA told us Quaeda was putting mercury into our reservoirs, we'd bomb somebody.

Instead we monitor the stock values--by the second. Go into any bank. TVs behind every teller with the financial news (what other kind is there?) & beneath the picture, the "scrawl", too fast to keep up with if you haven't trained yourself. If you haven't, you don't count anyway: that's what the TV picture is for: distraction, like a lollypop. Benumbed in our collective consensus financial trance, we monitor the market, while the world we live in is steadily poisoned & "developed" to the extent that we no longer have a middle-distance future. We have now the present, & the past. No one mentions it. You don't. Not once. Not ever.

Our President loves the Lord, but hates the world his Lord has made. His opposite number in Muslm Lands, Osama bin Laden, self-described slave of God, also is contemptuous of the world his God has made. Both are determined to wipe out Evil Doers/Infidels, but are quite immune to considering the slightest taint of evil in themselves.

TV & radio broadcasters have completely failed in their obligation to serve the public interest. On the same day I learn the EPA has been muzzled, it is revealed that CBS has muzzled itself. FCC should define meaningful public interest requirements that includes local monitoring of pollution levels. The environmental section of the NY Times should be as thick as the financial section; it doesn't exist.

As the elections approach, a well-functioning democracy demands that citizens have access to a diversity of opinions & voices on the choices confronting us.

But we are no longer a democracy of any variety, & citizens are barred legally from conversing with governmental agencies, while news outlets bar themselves from conversing with the citizenry.

How did we fall so far, so fast?

Sincerely,

Gerrit Crouse PhD
Gerrit Crouse PhD
38 4th Avenue
Nyack, NY 109602124